(b) to (d) During the 10th Plan, creation of 5 crore employment opportunities have been targeted and special emphasis has been given to Agriculture, Irrigation, Agro-Forestry, Small and Medium Enterprises, Information Communication Technology, Tourism and other services. This will help the unemployed persons in Punjab and Maharashtra also.

Policy for unemployed persons

†971. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated and uneducated unemployed in the country;

(b) whether Government are considering to call a meeting of labour Ministers and Chief Ministers for formulating a new comprehensive policy about unemployed persons;

(c) whether Government are going to provide any special assistance to the States like Uttaranchal to deal with this problem where average number of educated unemployed persons is very large; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Number of educated (10th standard & above) and uneducated jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on December 2002 were 296.68 lakh and 115.03 lakh respectively.

(b) At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry of Labour and Employment to call a meeting of Labour Ministers and Chief Ministers for formulating a new comprehensive policy about unemployed persons.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal in the Ministry of Labour & Employment to provide any special assistance to any State to deal with problem of educated unemployed.

Child Labour Project of Maharashtra

972. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has been

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

submitting project-proposals for Child Labour Education and Rehabilitation under the National Child Labour Project;

(b) if so, the number of child labour to be covered and the amount of Central aid sought for the same in the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and the current year and the aid granted against the demand; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearance of the proposals and grants-in-aid this year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A total of 5286 children were proposed to be covered and central aid to the tune of about Rs. 3 crore per annum was sought. Under NCLP Scheme, funds are released only to those districts which are identified by Government of India for the implementation of this Scheme and is also subject to the availability of funds.

Labour Ministers' Conference

973. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day Conference of Labour Ministers was held from October 16 to 18, 2003;

(b) if so, what were the main observations and the decisions made at the Conference; and

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra made a number of recommendations for promotion and protection of interests of the unorganised sector of labour including the farm labour, if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The 39th Session of Indian Labour Conference was held on 16–18 October, 2003.

(b) The major recommendations of the Conference include, Social Security scheme for the workers in the unorganised sector, greater integration in the existing welfare schemes, setting up of a Central Advisory Employment Council at the Centre and State level and formulation of a National Vocational Training policy.